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PATENT

Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 05552.1464-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Udo KRUPKA ) Group Art Unit: To be assigned  
Application No.: To be assigned ) Examiner: To be assigned  
Filed: Herewith )  
For: NOVEL SURFACE PROTEIN ) Confirmation No.: To be assigned  
(HBsAg) VARIANT OF THE )  
HEPATITIS B VIRUS )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** are included in this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims in this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** follow the amendment sections of this paper.